

## REMARKS FOR LTC ANDERSON BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

I am Lieutenant Colonel Ted Anderson. I am honored to appear before the Committee today, and testify with these other distinguished Americans, three among many, so closely tied to the events of 11 September. I am here as a soldier in my personal capacity. My views are my own and I do not represent the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense or the views of either agency. On 11 September, I was a soldier who very simply was in a particular place at a particular time and given the privilege to do my duty, along with many others. And what I contributed on 11 September is quite small compared to what our soldiers do every day around the world — are doing now in Afghanistan, are doing now in guarding our nation's airports, government buildings, and civil facilities.

Let me begin by saying that I am a very fortunate man. I have spent over nineteen years in the United States Army, assigned primarily to paratroop units around the world. In those nearly twenty years of service, I have seen many things that have structured my world view and my personal view. But the events of 11 September — here in Washington, in New York City, and in Pennsylvania — were for me, and I know for many others, life changing events. And I know that is an immeasurable understatement. Since 11 September, I have again and again reviewed my life, my time in the Army — I consider the things that I have done and those things that I have left undone. So, my testimony here today in favor of a monument to victims of terrorist attacks, wherever and however it is built, is something small that I can do to offer my support of what I believe is both right and necessary.

In a very broad sense and unique way, our country and the world will remember 11 September for a very, very long time. The obvious comparisons have been made to Pearl Harbor. It will be remembered for the thousands who were lost, or those multitudes more who have been directly touched by the horror of it all — their husbands and wives, mothers and father, sons and daughter, and their friends and colleagues. But it will be remembered, as well, for the new bonds that have been forged among the American people: our public servants — government officials, firefighters, policemen, first responders in every category; our citizens — those from every walk of life and undoubtedly representing every cultural heritage that composes the very fabric of our nation; and the members of our military. Because of that day, we are bound in a very intimate way that I do not think we have experienced before.

And 11 September represents in several regards a moment of awakening across this great land. Even before 11 September, our nation lost Americans to terrorist acts that now seem precursors to the monumental tragedy of that day — the USS Cole comes to mind, as well as the bombings of our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, and the first attempt to destroy the world trade center only nine years before. But on 11 September, our nation was awakened to the stark reality of the subtle threat we had almost unwittingly faced and still face today. It has changed the way that we define our notions of defense of freedom.

And as well I know from my own experiences and from talking to many others close to me, that once the smoke cleared and the fires were finally put out, when the weight of that day descended upon us, and many of us realized the incredible nature of what had occurred very literally before our eyes, I know that many commitments were made that day. These were commitments of individuals to stop taking for granted this magnificent thing we call life, and this even more magnificent thing called liberty; they were commitments to start living differently, to make more concerted efforts each to do what we can to help one another, to simply to be better people. And we cannot chance to lose this sense of national awakening — which is a note of celebration in a long song of sorrow.

This war is different, I believe, than any other quest on which our nation has ever embarked — fighting against an elusive enemy in a dedicated effort to overcome the terrorism that threatens us, wherever it hides, around the globe. And this war demands that every citizen — whether here at home or abroad — make a long-term commitment to victory. Now, our nation and its allies are engaged in the global war on terrorism, what we imagine will be a protracted effort to make our nation, our allies, and our interests safe from those who would attempt to dissuade us from our noble purpose — peace and liberty.

And so our purpose here today is different than any other effort in my recollection to memorialize those who have been lost in defense of our nation or in acts of war — different because even while we are engaged in the conflict, we can choose now to memorialize those who have fallen as an example to the living who are committed to this war here and abroad. We can thereby acknowledge the sober reality of what we have undertaken — that others may very well give their lives on the behalf of this profound effort.

So, this is about a memorial to those who have fallen already, and it is about a physical symbol of our unified commitment to persevere, to prevail, and to preserve the

sanctity of our endeavor in freedom and peace for our own people, and for those who would choose to join us.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the construction of a national memorial to the victims of terrorism. How it is conceived, where it might be, and when it takes physical form is less important than undertaking a firm commitment to keep the events of 11 September in the forefront of our nation's consciousness, to memorialize those who lost their lives on that day, and to mark that day as turning of our national consciousness.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.